

Official Minutes for Webb County
Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2007 at 5:30 PM
(APPROVED FEBRUARY 12, 2007)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Danny Valdez	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Sergio "Keko" Martinez	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 20th of January 2006. Present also were Mrs. Imelda Diaz, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

Item No. 1 Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

Item No. 2 Pledge of Allegiance

Item No. 3 Approval of minutes for January 09, 2007

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 4 Approval of bills, payroll and monthly reports

Mrs. Carmen Moreno, Treasurer's Department, explained the monthly reports which included cash balances accounts reconciled with the general ledger, sales tax collections, and school funds which were

received and deposited to the general fund.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 5 Communications

Cmr. Sciaraffa invited everyone to attend the Rio Bravo South Activity Center on Friday, January 26, 2007 at 10 a.m. He stated that this was a half a million dollar project for Rio Bravo.

Cmr. Tijerina welcomed everyone to the first night meeting.

Cmr. Martinez welcomed everyone present including the Veterans.

Cmr. Garza stated that it was a great idea to have a meeting at 5:30 because this would allow the general public to attend and have their three minutes to speak on important issues. He recognized District Attorney Joe Rubio, Councilman Mike Garza, and former Commissioner Judith Gutierrez which were in the audience.

Judge Valdez welcomed everyone present. He thanked Tomas Rodriguez, Mike Kazen, UISD, Sheriff's Department, City of Laredo, and the Road & Bridge department for their standby on last weeks weather conditions.

Item No. 6 Public Comment

Judge Valdez advised the public that anyone wishing to speak would be allotted three minutes and that everyone should speak with respect or he would have the bailiff escort them out of the Court.

1st witness card – Judith Gutierrez (spoke on item#19)

Mrs. Gutierrez congratulated the Court on their evening meetings and stated that she was going to speak on item #19. She explained that this project had been in the process for about two years and that everyone had worked very hard to have a museum for the Veterans. She went on to further explain that the property was bought from the Veteran's Coalition and not anyone else. She stated that the encroachment problem had been there for almost 87 years and the issue should be to look for a cure for this problem so that the Veterans could have their museum.

2nd witness card –Hector Farias (spoke on item#19)

Mr. Farias thanked Former Commissioner Gutierrez, Cmr. Sciaraffa, Cmr. Garza, and Cmr. Tijerina for taking their time to meet with them and realize the importance of this project. He stated that he was disappointed at Judge Valdez because he could not be available being that in his platform he stated that he would support all Veterans. He explained that the property in question was the size of the court's podium but realizes that Cmr. Pct 4 was trying to dissolve the sale. He mentioned that there was misconception

that these monies were going to be allocated towards the Youth Village.

3rd witness card – Richard Geissler (spoke on item #19)

Mr. Geissler stated that the Veterans Museum was built in 1840 as an antique and that politics in the early days happened in this building. He went on to mention that there are several Metal Honors Veterans within the community and that those Veterans deserve to have a place where they are to be remembered. He suggested to the Court not to limit the public comments to just an agenda item. He told Judge Bruni that he was in agreement with him when it came to the Juvenile Building and that he assured Judge Bruni that if this was to be placed in a Referendum on an election, the community would back him up. Mr. Geissler read an article from the Laredo Morning Times written by Gil Trevino.

4th witness card – Richard Rossell (spoke on item #19)

Mr. Rossell explained that he visited with Cmr. Martinez back in December and realized that the issue was not because of the museum but with Cmr. Martinez himself. He explained that Cmr. Martinez is punishing all Veterans but yet he did not sit down with the rest of the Court to discuss this issue. He asked the Court to put a stop to this and solve the issue.

5th witness card – Jose Luis Munoz (spoke on item #19)

Mr. Munoz congratulated Cmr. Martinez, Judge Valdez, and Cmr. Tijerina. He went on to congratulate Cmr. Sciaraffa, and Cmr. Garza for doing a tremendous job in the last administration. He thanked Judge Bruni, Cmr. Gutierrez, Cmr. Brunner for being true politicians and helping the Veterans just as they had said they would. He explained that Cmr. Martinez had a personal problem with Dr. Hector Farias because each time that Dr. Farias wanted to do something for the Veterans he steps in. Mr. Munoz finished by saying that he wonders if Judge Valdez and Cmr. Martinez ever witness death and destruction or met the agony eye to eye while serving in the Navy. He mentioned that if they did they would have a different conception towards the Veterans.

6th witness card - Jesus Sanchez (spoke on item #19)

Mr. Sanchez stated that he was there to speak on behalf of Cmr. Martinez. He explained that Cmr. Martinez has nothing against the Veterans; however, Mr. Sanchez stated that he as a taxpayer wants all monies spent wisely. He went on to explain that there was a museum next to La Posada and no one has ever visited and that goes for the Villa Antigua as well.

7th witness card – Eva Delgado (spoke on item #19)

Ms. Delgado explained that she was not an expert to talk about politics; however, she had a concern as to why was the museum going to be built on a property that belonged to Mr. Farias. She stated that she understood that another museum was going to be good for the Veterans but she would rather have these monies used for a cemetery, housing, or to bring back a clinic for the Veterans. She declared to the Court that as a taxpayer, she wants to see these monies used in a good manner.

8th witness card - Marissa G. Martinez (spoke on #32)

Ms. Martinez explained that she was employed by Economic Development back in 1997, and at the time they would go with the "Dead Cat Theory" which was that every time something went wrong with a grant they were to blame every other department. She clarified that historically there were only two people

signing on the draw downs and not the entire Commissioner's Court; therefore, she was concerned that if everyone becomes an authorized signer they would be certifying that all regulations are met including State and Federal. She explained that this in turns makes each one personally liable. She recommended to the Court that Mr. Juan Vargas be an authorized signature so that he could certify that all the regulations are being met.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to move up Items 24 and 37. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 37. Discussion and possible action to solicit Request for Proposals to retain the services of an architect to develop plans and specifications for improvements to the Webb County Justice Center for the Webb County District Attorney's office.

District Attorney Joe Rubio explained that he had met with Mr. Eloy Ramirez and Judge O.J. Hale for discussion of lack of space among these two offices. He stated that some investigators share an office and due to the increase in work they needed additional space, therefore, they checked on the fifth floor and there was additional space for his office as well as for Judge Hale to which this space would be used as a Child Testifying Room.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve the item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 24. Discussion and possible action to amend the personnel general order for \$ 5,200 or \$288.89 bi-weekly for slot 0887 Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator from \$1,712.55 and \$1,798.18 bi-weekly to \$ 2,001.44 and 2,087.07 bi-weekly respectively as of January 22, 2007 and April 1, 2007, funded from the department's payroll saving.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 7. Proclamation recognizing the First United Methodist Church of Laredo in its celebration of 135th year of service to our community.

Mr. Dennis Kriewald thanked the Court for placing the item on the agenda. Judge Valdez congratulated Mr. Kriewald and the members of the Church and read the Proclamation (Recorded at the County Clerk's Office under Agenda Item).

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to move item 11 up. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11. Discussion and possible action to appropriate a total of \$175,000.00 from two sources: \$149,741.00 from Series 2003 Fund 658, and \$25,259.00 Series 2006 Fund 723, for future use for construction of El Eden Recreational Facility; and authorization to negotiate and develop intergovernmental agreement with the City of Laredo for said construction.

Cmr. Sciaraffa thanked Councilman Mike Garza and Mr. Mike Pescador for being present and for their hard work.

Councilman Garza stated that part of his platform was to come before Commissioner's Court in order to get input from the County. He described the El Eden Recreational Facility as being the first state of the art facility in Laredo and that there was still a short fall to this \$3 million project; however, he stated that he would come back to the Court to ask for Cmr. Tijerina's support. He thanked Judge Valdez for going before City Council and stating his support towards them.

Mr. Mike Pescador explained that it was estimated that by next month the actual design would be completed. He stated that there was already a playground in place and being utilized.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Sciaraffa thanked Mr. Carlos Villarreal for helping him with the project.

Item No. 8. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfer:

From: Material & Supplies 001-0200-6205 \$5,000.00

To: Administrative Travel 001-0200-5601 \$5,000.00

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 9. Discussion and possible action to appoint two members of the Commissioners Court to the Webb County Insurance Committee.

Mr. Leroy Medford, Executive Administrator to County Judge, explained that the previous members were the Commissioners for Pct 2 and Pct. 4.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned for appointees to remain the same. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 10. Discussion and possible action to direct the Administrative Services Department to prepare requests for qualifications for the position of Public Information Officer, and any matters incident thereto. (Co-Sponsored by Hon. Jerry Garza, Commissioner Pct. 3).

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion with discussion. He asked if the applicants who had previously submitted their RFQs still be considered. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that it was up to the Court's discretion.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item and include previous applicants. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 12. Discussion and possible action to transfer slot 2351 (clerk) from La Presa Community Center to Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1 to be paid at \$14.00/hr as a Civil/Criminal Docket Coordinator with funds to be derived from slot 2351 and remainder from this year's payroll fund.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 13. Discussion and possible action to direct Road & Bridge Dept. to deliver approximately 2,000 cubic yards of fill to LIFE DOWNS for the 19,800 square foot Metal Show and Sale Metal Building under construction.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Martinez asked if the 2,000 cubic yards were included in the \$250,000 that were already allocated or if this was going to cost the County extra money. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, clarified that it would not cost the County any money being that the soil is already at Road & Bridge because it was left from a previous project. He further explained that everything was included in the monies that were allotted,

however, the soil that LIFE DOWNS had did not pass the test and asked the County for the soil left over from a previous project. Cmr. Martinez asked if the monies were paid to the Contractor before the soil was tested, to which Mr. Rodriguez answered as per the Contractor LIFE DOWNS was to provide the soil; however, they could not since it did not meet the test. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, explained that this project was a license agreement not a lease agreement since it was on County property and the solicitation of the soil was additional resources needed to go on with the project. Cmr. Tijerina asked if this was going to cost the County any additional money, to which Mr. Rodriguez answered no. Cmr. Martinez explained that all he was trying to do was to place a gap on all projects because in the past every time projects were started additional monies had to be allotted and he wanted to protect the taxpayer's money which was his job as a Commissioner.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 14. Discussion and possible action to increase the amount paid for juvenile burials to \$500.00. This represents an increase of \$100.00 from the current amount of \$400.00.

Cmr. Garza explained that in the last meeting there were some adjustments done to the burial rates and the juvenile rates were the only pending amounts to match the new market analysis. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 15. Discussion and possible action to rename Buenos Aires Community Center slot # 2346 (driver/maintenance) to Administrative Technician at a salary of \$20,000.00; and to adjust slot # 2288 (center coordinator) to \$27,000.00. These changes will have no financial impact on the FY 2006-2007 budget.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 16. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$11,000.00 from Buenos Aires Community Center account # 001-6113-6201 (Utilities) to part time account # 001-0203-5005 (Commissioner Pct. 3).

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 17. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$2,000.00 from Buenos Aires Community Center account # 001-6113-6201 (Utilities) to account # 902-4200-7004-01 (emergency food and shelter).

Comr. Garza explained that he placed some backup regarding this item because this was a supplement to fill in a gap for one of Mr. Kazen's program so that they don't expend all their funds and have to wait till they get awarded the new grant.

Comr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Comr. Martinez asked what the procedure that CAA has when faced with a situation that a person's house has been condemned and they have to move out. Mr. Mike Kazen, CAA Director, explained that these people go through an application process which is used to qualify the person for a specific program; however, if there are no funds available they partner with surrounding entities to see if help or funds are available through them. He clarified that they try to get these persons out of the situation that they are in being that the assistance that they provide is only temporary. He went on to say that depending on the situation the person is in whether it be Adult Protective cases, Child Protective cases, and/or Domestic Violence cases determines what kind of assistance can be provided. Comr. Garza thanked Mr. Kazen and all his staff for all the work they do for these low income families.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 18. Discussion and possible action to amend the Third Party Funding Contract to Habitat for Humanity and to increase it by \$1,000.00. Funds to be taken from account # 001-2100-03 (Precinct 3 Parks and Recreation Account).

Comr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion with discussion.

Comr. Garza explained that Habitat for Humanity was doing a project called "Cans for Habitats". He mentioned that they were the first city in Texas to do this and their goal was to collect enough money to build a house. He further explained that they were working with all the school districts, City of Laredo, and anyone wishing to participate was welcomed. Comr. Garza thanked the Menudo Bowl and members of Jamboozie for helping with the project.

Ms. Carol Sherwood stated that she was very excited to start working in the project and welcomed any public event to join them with the project.

Judge Valdez stated that by having everyone get involved this project would be a success. Comr. Tijerina thanked Habitat for Humanity for all the work they do for the Colonia residents.

Comr. Sciaraffa thanked Habitat for Humanity and matched Comr. Garza's contribution of \$1000.00 and

stated that the item would be placed on the next agenda for approval.

Cmr. Garza mentioned that when he took office he placed recycle bins on each of the Court's floors and would appreciate everyone's cooperation to help recycle.

Ms. Patricia Barrera, Tax Assessor Collector, mentioned that her department was collecting a lot of aluminum plates and that the fees collected would go towards the general fund; however, if the Court wished she could pledge the amount towards Habitat for Humanity.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 19. Discussion and possible action concerning previous status report on Veterans Historical Museum including title survey performed and any matters incident thereto. [Closed Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Cmr. Martinez asked Mr. Homero Ramirez if he had the documents requested by him at the last Commissioner's Court meeting, to which Mr. Ramirez answered that he was in contact with several people and would try to have them by the next meeting. Mr. Ramirez explained that in reference to the Court having subpoena power, he stated that the Court as a whole by majority vote can subpoena documents not only one person and clarified that any subpoena would have to go through the County Clerks Office and he would be glad to assist the County Clerks Office with the required process.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to table the item to give the parties involved ample time to submit the requested documents and if not proceed from there. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

MEDIA BREAK 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Item No. 20. Discussion and possible action to enter into a one year (January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007) equipment and services agreement with AT&T Data-Com to provide maintenance services to Webb County's Cisco Networking System at a cost of SEVENTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS (\$17,420.00) and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by M.I.S. Department; Account Number 001-0500-6402 (Equipment Maintenance)]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Tijerina not present.

Item No. 21. Discussion and possible action to enter into a (1) one year (January 22, 2007 through January 21, 2008) maintenance agreement with Office Communication Systems, Inc. to service a Toshiba ES-352 Copier located at the Morgue, at a maintenance fee of FORTYFIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS PER MONTH (\$45.00), and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Judge; Account Number 001-2070-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment)]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Tijerina not present.

Item No. 22. Discussion and possible action to enter into a (1) year (January 22, 2007 through January 21, 2008) maintenance agreement with Office Communication Systems, Inc. to service a Toshiba ES-3510C Copier located at the Judge's Office, at a maintenance fee of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY-THREE CENTS PER MONTH (\$126.33), and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Judge; Account Number 001-0200-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment)]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Tijerina not present.

Item No. 23. Discussion and possible action to correct typographical error to the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2006, to accurately reflect that the court voted to approve agenda item 33.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Tijerina not present.

Item No. 25. Discussion and possible action to approve Request for Qualifications for Public Defender, direct publication notice of vacancy and other procedural components once applications are received.

Ms. Cynthia Mares, Administrative Services, explained that the item was brought to the Court in hopes to get any input and direction from the Court on how to proceed after the qualifications are received. Cmr. Garza stated that there were a good amount of requirements in the qualification; however, that trial experience needed to be included amongst the qualifications. He asked if the RFQs were being handled by the County Clerks Office and how they were being handled; to which Ms. Mares responded that they are to get stamped and dated at the County Clerks Office. However, she explained that Mr. Homero Ramirez had a concern whether they had to be hand delivered or mailed by the deadline and that it needed to be clarified.

Cmr. Martinez explained that usually anything postmarked would be approved whether submitted by mail or in person; however, he stated that in revising the qualifications they asked for someone with more experience as a Prosecutor rather than as a Defender. He mentioned that he was in agreement with Cmr. Garza's concern and recommended to include any records of the cases in which they have taken to trial

Mrs. Mares stated that the intent was to get input from the Court and that they would continue to work on the qualifications; however, she needed to know how many days to advertise and what the parameters of the search would be. Cmr. Martinez recommended that it should advertise for fourteen days and local search only to which Cmr. Tijerina agreed by saying that there were great lawyers in Laredo who could do the job.

Ms. Mares asked that once all materials are forwarded to the County Clerks Office, if the Court would like to view the material. Cmr. Garza stated that the Human Resource Department should screen the applications and only forward the ones which meet the qualifications to the Court or that it was not a bad idea to form a committee to view these applications and make recommendation. Cmr. Martinez mentioned that a list of those who did not meet the minimum requirements should be forwarded to the Court as well. Ms. Mares mentioned that she felt comfortable to form a committee consisting of one or two commissioners and staff to which Judge Valdez agreed since there are two attorneys amongst the Court and appointed Cmr. Tijerina, Cmr. Martinez, and staff to the committee. However, Mr. Leroy Medford recommended that if any Commissioner served in the committee it would serve as a conflict of interest, to which Cmr. Sciaraffa recommended one appointee per Commissioner. Cmr. Martinez recommended Ms. Mares and her staff screen and seek the five contenders and bring back to the Court for approval. Cmr. Garza asked who would be performing the screening. Ms. Mares stated that it would be herself, the Assistant Human Resource Coordinator and they would seek advice from Counsel and the Purchasing Agent.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve the RFQs as presented with the recommendations by the Court to be included and that Ms. Mares come back with a recommendation for a committee on the next meeting. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 26. Discussion and possible action to acknowledge receipt of Plan Year-End Forfeitures from National Plan Administrator, as per Internal Revenue Code Section 125, for years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, for a total amount of \$38,087.73, and any matters incident thereto.

Ms. Mares explained that this item was regarding the flexible spending that each employee is entitled to enroll in and allocate the amount of money each of them wishes to; however, when the monies are not spent by the employees they are transferred into the Forfeiture Account and approval is needed to collect the funds. She explained that as per IRS Section 125 these monies can be used for employee related projects, therefore, she was asking for approval to use these funds in events such as the Health Fair, Safety Fairs, Women Exams, etc.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion

Cmr. Garza asked why these monies would not go back to the employee but to the County and how much time was given to spend these funds. Ms. Mares responded that it was IRS policy and being that the County administers the funds they are entitled to the non-spent monies and that each employee was advised and given a total of 14 ½ months to spend their money.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 27. Discussion and possible action to appoint two members of the Commissioners Court to the Audit Committee along with District Judge Joe Lopez, County Auditor Leo Flores, County Attorney Homero Ramirez, Executive Administrators Leroy Medford and Carlos Villarreal.

Judge Valdez appointed Cmr. Jerry Garza and Cmr. Sergio "Keko" Martinez to Audit Committee.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve appointees. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 28. Discussion and possible action to authorize the County Auditor to expend funds from the Weatherization Program effective March 31, 2007, pending the receipt of all required documents for the new program year.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 29. Discussion and Possible action to submit the proposed budget for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA), for FY-2007, in the amount of \$495,470.00 and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Mr. Mike Kazen, CAA Director, explained that there would be some adjustments made to the percentages in the backup for this item which will not affect the amount approved.

Item No. 30. Discussion and possible action to accept the initial allocation of \$186,397.00 from the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA), for the FY 2007 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Garza asked Mr. Kazen if these funds were the ones pending to be received and discussed in last Commissioner's Court meeting, to which Mr. Kazen said yes.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 31. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of an application for the FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program Phase # 25, in the amount of \$25,050.00.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 32. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the County Judge and all of the Webb County Commissioners as authorized signatories for the purpose of drawing down grant funds from the following funded Texas Community Development Program Grants.

**TCDP # 722205 - Tanquecitos I Sanitary Sewer Collection System
Project TCDP #725891 - Penitas West Community Center, Tool Lending
Library, and Santa Teresita Community Center Project TCDP # 721175 -
Webb County 2002 EDAP Project TCDP # 724003 - Webb County Self-
Help Center Project TCDP # 724195 - Felix Vela Tract**

Mr. Juan Vargas, Economic Development, explained that this is being done so that the authorized signatories are updated being that there is a new administration that came in including the Commissioners for two precincts. He clarified that this is the only way that funds can be draw down because the way the process is you first spend the money and then get reimbursed. He further explained that a procedure has been in play for eleven years which entails that he recommends approval to pay invoices to the Auditors office which in turn disburses the funds and that there has not been one situation in which anything has ever been questioned.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Garza asked Mr. Vargas what he thought on the public comment made earlier. Mr. Vargas stated that was the reason he had clarified that a process is already in play and he has to make recommendations to approve disbursements of the funds. He mentioned that he did not think that the Commissioners had any liability but rather the County as a whole which is the same situation with any other department.

Item No. 33. Discussion and possible action on a resolution to develop and submit a grant application to the Office of Justice Programs Office on Violence Against Women Safe Havens : Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program in the amount of \$400,00.00, with a County in-kind match of \$10,000.00 in administrative functions; to designate the Children's Advocacy Center of Laredo/Webb County as the subcontractor in the execution and administration of the Webb County Safe Havens Program; and to designate County Judge Danny Valdez as the County's Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with this application.

Mr. Juan Vargas explained that three years ago there was a grant in the amount of \$350,000 allocated to start the Safe Haven Program and Judge Hale recommended Commissioner's Court to be under the third party funding.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 34. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Economic Development Department to develop and submit an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs Disaster Relief and Urgent Need Project Grant Fund in an amount up to \$350,000.00 for the repair of storm damage to Webb County's 16" raw water lines and pipe embankment caused by a 6-8 inch storm event on September 24, 2006, and designating the County Judge as the County's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with this application and the County's participation in the Disaster Relief and Urgent Need Project Grant Fund application.

Mr. Juan Vargas recommended to table item being that there some pending specifications with ORCA (Office of Rural Community Affairs).

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to table item. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 35. Discussion and possible action to authorize the payment of \$331.50 for the purchase of diesel engine water pump due to emergency repairs at the Water Treatment Plant.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 36. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Secondary Water Source Project to reimburse the Utilities Department \$40,000.00 for a 230 KW Diesel Generator to provide electricity to the 150 Hp, 450 gallon per minute Submersible Pump that is being installed.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 38. Discussion and possible action to purchase the following office equipment and the installation of carpet for the Webb County Judge's office. Funding source: Acct. 722-0200-8801:

Description	Vendor	Amount
Office Furniture	Wittings Office Interior	\$17,325.00
Carpet (ratify)	Intl Floor covering of LDO	\$ 4,201. 95

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 39. Discussion and possible action to include Brothers Materials, Ltd. to our Bid No. 2007-03 Annual Contract to Flexible Base.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, explained that it was very difficult to find caliche and that Brothers Materials, Ltd. had offered some caliche at \$4.75 a yard and had already been tested.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 40. Discussion and possible action to award Bid No. 2007-65 and Bid No. 2007-66 to High and Mighty Builders LLC for the Self Help Center - Housing Rehabilitation.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 41. Discussion and possible action to purchase one F150 regular cab from Philpott Motors in the amount of \$20,074.00 through the Buy Board state contract number 208-04 for the Justice of the Peace Pct. 3, Alfredo Garcia. Funding: Certificates of Obligation Series 2006.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez asked what the purpose of the vehicle was for; to which Mr. Ramirez explained that the vehicle that Judge Garcia currently owns has had the transmission break down twice and he needs to commute to Laredo to magistrate, and turn in purchase requisition, etc. Cmr. Garza asked what happens to the old vehicles. Mr. Ramirez explained that when the vehicles are operable they are auctioned but in this case the vehicle was not operable.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 42. Discussion and possible action to purchase the following equipment for the County Judges' office funded by Certificates of Obligations Series 2006:

Description	Vendor	Amt.
(3) HP Printers	Valcom Computer	\$ 987.00
(1) IBM Typewriter	Patria	\$ 484.95
(3) Software & licenses	SHI	\$ 1,203.00
	DIR-SDD-198	
(1) Lenovo Thinkcentre and (5) Memory Key	LENOVO	\$ 1,468.57
(2) Sony Laptops	Southern Computer	\$ 4,651.22
	Grand Total	\$ 8,794.74

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 43. Discussion and possible action to accept a grant from the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas in an amount not to exceed \$49,000.00 funded from and to be reimbursed against the following account: Patrol Division: 001-2001-5003; with no impact to the general fund.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 44. Adjournment

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to adjourn. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.